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Dear Neighbors,

With new leadership in the General Assembly and in the Governor's office, the 2005 legislative session was filled with new opportunity. Crucial issues were debated with a fresh perspective and many accomplishments were achieved.

In particular, we made important improvements in the state's commitment to help cities and towns meet the needs of residents. I have included in this report a chart that details the additional aid provided to Cromwell.

I have also included a short list of additional issues that were addressed. Because of the space constraints on this report, I'd like to make sure that you know that additional and more detailed information is available on my Web site. If you have additional concerns or questions, you can call my office.

Yours truly,

Biagio "Billy" Ciotto

Biagio "Billy" Ciotto
State Senator, 9th District



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Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill & Wethersfield

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STATE AID

FOR THE TOWN OF CROMWELL

Cromwell will receive more state aid than last year to assist with school budgets, maintain roads and help pay for other general services.

	FY 04-05	FY 05-06	INCREASE FROM FY 04-05
Aid to Cromwell for Schools	\$3,305,659	\$3,443,136	\$137,477
Other Municipal Grants	\$383,579	\$435,914	\$52,335
Totals	\$3,689,238	\$3,879,050	\$189,812

The legislature also authorized funding for important projects in Cromwell including \$350,000 for Watrous Park and \$150,000 to help with the Downtown Revitalization Project. I know this money would go a long way in helping the taxpayers of Cromwell and I will work hard to obtain final approval by the State Bond Commission for these projects.



YOUR STATE SENATOR BIAGIO "BILLY" CIOTTO



2005 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Protecting our Seniors

- The legislature provided \$5 million in state funds for each of the next two years to help fund Dial-a-Ride for our elderly and disabled residents.

Keeping our Roads Safe

- Banned cell phone use while driving a motor vehicle, unless the driver uses a hands-free device.
- Required child restraints for all children under the age of 7 or under 60 pounds.

Helping Working Families

- Saved HUSKY health insurance for low-income adults from budget cuts.
- Increased the minimum wage to \$7.40 an hour in 2006 and to \$7.65 an hour in 2007 to help working families.

Consumer Friendly Initiatives

- Gift Cards will be exempt from the abandoned property law. Consumers can be assured that any gift card sold in the state will NOT have an expiration date.
- In an effort to improve public safety, restaurants will be required to post signs for employees that explain how to recognize if a person is choking and the proper actions to take.
- Connecticut consumers will be able to receive shipments directly from farm wineries in Connecticut and from out of state.